

# AGRiVIEW



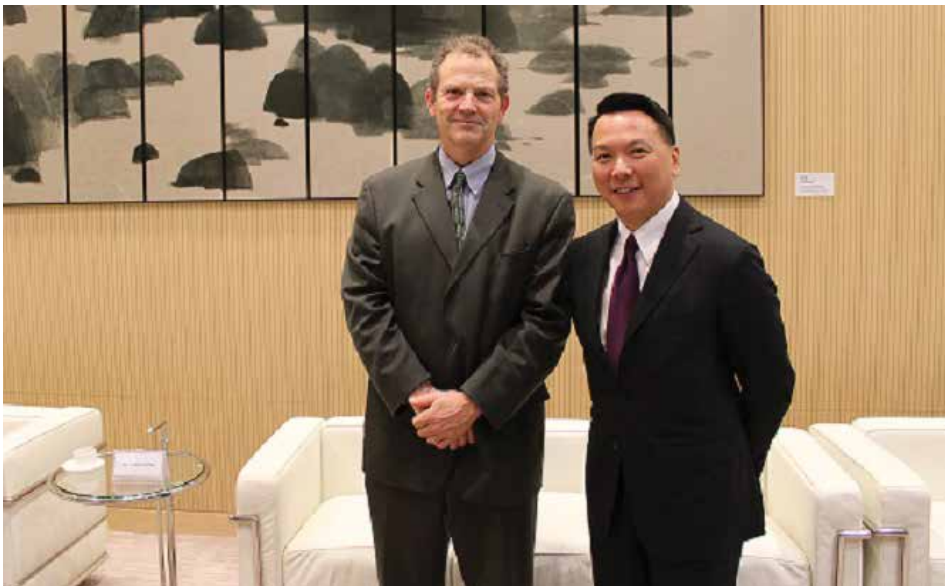
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## Secretary Ross Leads Successful Trade Mission to Hong Kong and China

By Chelsea Bardot Lewis, Agricultural Policy Administrator, VAAFM

**M**ore Vermont products may end up on the plates – and in the glasses – of Chinese diners over the next few years, thanks to connections made during the recent Food and Agriculture Trade Mission to Hong Kong and China. Secretary Ross led the Vermont delegation, which included Arnold Coombs of Bascom Family Farms, Jeremy Stephenson, President of the Vermont Cheese Council, Alex Weiss of Caledonia Spirits, and Chelsea Bardot Lewis, Director of VAAFM's Food Export Program.

Plans for the mission were put into place when Secretary Ross was asked to represent the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) in his role as President



Sec. Ross with Hong Kong Secretary of Commerce and Economic Development, Andrew Wong.

on their annual China mission. The Agency worked with Food Export-Northeast, a nonprofit organization that helps small food companies

access international markets, to develop a complimentary program for Vermont businesses. The Agency's travel expenses were covered by

these two partner organizations.

"Identifying new markets for Vermont products drives economic development and increases sales from Vermont's food and farm businesses," said Ross. "The Chinese market deserves our attention not only because of its size and rapid growth, but also because of the demand for healthy, safe, high quality products that align with the types of products Vermont companies have to offer."

With annual increases in disposable income at over 60%, the Chinese consumer is increasingly looking for specialty products. Dairy products were in very high demand, as was wine, specifically in Hong Kong. The Agency of Agriculture hopes to continue to build connections with the Chinese marketplace over the coming years.

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## AGRiVIEW

**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets**  
116 State Street  
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# Happy Holidays!

*On behalf of the entire Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets,  
I'd like to wish you and your family a joyful season. May the New Year bring you health, prosperity, and cheer!  
I look forward to working with you in 2014 for the benefit of our local farms and foodsystem!*

*Charles R. Ross*

## Trade Mission to Hong Kong and China

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"As a result of this mission my understanding of the Chinese market has grown by leaps and bounds," said Coombs. "As the Chinese knowledge of cheese, maple and other specialty foods grows, Vermont's quality will be in demand. An ongoing effort, not necessarily an expensive marketing program but a consistent presence could have very nice returns in the long term."

For information on Vermont's Food Export Program, contact Chelsea Bardot Lewis, Agricultural Policy Administrator, at [Chelsea](mailto:lewis@state.vt.us). [lewis@state.vt.us](mailto:lewis@state.vt.us) or 802-522-5573.

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## Dates Announced for Listening Sessions with Chuck Ross, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture

**D**o you have an idea that could improve the bottom line of farms in Vermont? Is there something you think the state should or should not be doing to help farmers? Here is an opportunity to discuss your ideas and concerns with Chuck Ross, the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture. He will be holding a series of listening sessions throughout the state to hear and discuss what's on the mind of farmers. Two sessions remain in this series – a new series will be announced in the spring and will include locations across the state. Each session will include brief presentations on steps we can each take to be better prepared for an emergency or disaster and initiatives within VT's farmland conservation program. After the presentations, the floor will be opened up for a

question and answer session about how the state and specifically the Agency of Agriculture can address the issues facing farms and agriculture in general today. The sessions will be held in the afternoon at the following locations:

**Tuesday, January 7, 2014 from 2-4,**  
at the downtown state office building in Bennington

**Friday, January 10, 2014 from 1-3,**  
at the library in St. Albans

If you would like more information or directions to a specific site please contact Ken Hafner, Agricultural Recovery Specialist, at 802 272 0822 or via email at [ken.hafner@state.vt.us](mailto:ken.hafner@state.vt.us).

## What's Your Type?

**O**n December 4th, more than 50 members of the ag community participated in a conflict management workshop, jointly sponsored by the Agency of Ag and the Vermont Farm Bureau, organized by the Agency's Louise Waterman. The workshop covered the basics of Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and personal conflict styles. Participants were very pleased with the insight and perspective the workshop provided. Said one attendant, "I am looking at myself, my environment, and my coworkers in a whole new way. This workshop was tremendously valuable!"

*Pictured here:*

*Tim Buskey,  
VT Farm  
Bureau, Louise  
Waterman,  
Agency of  
Agriculture, John  
Torres, Workshop  
Facilitator, Hans  
Vorstevelde,  
Farmer.*





# An Inside View of Vermont Christmas Tree Inspection

By Tim Schmalz, VAAFM  
Plant Industry Chief

Every year, personnel from the plant industry section spends a week or so wandering through Christmas tree plantations from Canaan to Bennington, and to the uninitiated, it looks just like a pleasant walk in the woods. And, truth be told, the opportunity to go out for a stroll and review the Christmas tree crop produced in what is probably some of the best growing areas in the Northeast for balsam and Fraser fir is one our staff relishes, especially as the dark and foreboding days of deep winter loom ahead.

But, it is not just a leisurely stroll for us and our cooperators in the Forest and Parks Department. Rather, we are doing our part to help enforce a variety of Federal, state and international quarantines on forest pests established in Vermont, and to ensure that only trees of the highest quality are allowed to venture forth bearing the Vermont brand to destinations around the country, and indeed, the world. Believe it or not, there are consumers of Vermont Christmas trees in Bermuda, California,



*Plant Industry Section Chief Tim Schmalz accompanied Governor Shumlin to Elysian Hills Christmas Tree Farm in Dummerston this year to cut down holiday trees for the governor's offices in the Pavillion Building.*

Arizona, and even right next door in Quebec.

The pest attracting the most attention is European gypsy moth. As most folks in Vermont know, this is a pest mainly of hardwoods, especially oaks, but the Federal rule applying to this pest includes all material moving from within the quarantined zone, as the female moths will lay their eggs on any stationary sur-

face, including the trunks of Christmas trees. Those eggs, should they be given a free ride to areas generally west of the Mississippi, have the potential to spread that pest much more rapidly than the moth could move on its own. So we spend our afternoons in November bending down in the plantations, inspecting the trunks of fir trees for the telltale buff colored, felty masses that contain the eggs.

Although it is not common for the females to choose fir Christmas trees as egg-laying sites, in especially bad gypsy moth years, it is not at all uncommon to see several egg masses even on a single tree. So we do our part to insure the trees leaving for destinations like California and Bermuda are free of the eggs.

Although pine is no longer a common choice for a Christmas tree in New England, the market for pine boughs as secondary Christmas decorations remains fairly consistent. This brings inspection requests for the second federally regulated pest in Vermont, pine shoot beetle. This quarantine zone is smaller than that for gypsy moth, but the pest is no

less threatening. Another introduced pest, this beetle attacks mainly two and three needle pine species, and poses a significant risk to the extensive and valuable southern yellow pine industry. So, we check for signs of that beetle in the tips of pine branches before boughs are sent as part of decorative wreaths, swags, and wholesale shipments for processing at the final destination.

Finally, there is the myriad of other pests, native and introduced, that show up from time to time on our trees here in Vermont. Insects like balsam gall midge, pine bark adelgid, pine needle scale, and even carpenter ants make the lists of states and countries around the world where our trees go. Diseases like rhizosphaera, broom rusts, scleroderris canker and fir-fern rust may also be no-gos, depending on the destinations. We look for all of them, confirm their absence or help the grower control them if they appear, and certify the plants are ready to ship.

If you or someone you know is in the business of growing Christmas trees, or would like to investigate the business and have questions about shipping your product outside of Vermont (or any other plant or plant product, for that matter), contact us here at the plant industry section first. We would be delighted to help answer your export questions, and get you on the path to a successful, trouble-free and profitable shipment.

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# Preventing A Barn Collapse

By Leo Larocque,  
Loss Control Supervisor  
Co-operative Insurance  
Companies

It's not a pleasant sight. A dairy barn with a large hole in the roof or no roof at all. Splintered rafters and twisted sheets of metal roofing pointing in every direction. The loss of cows, horses, or other animals, completes the sad picture. In some cases adequate insurance helped the farmer rebuild quickly. Others were not so lucky.

This past winter has again reminded us of the threats of our rugged New England climate. While the risk of a barn collapsing can never be totally avoided, there are several ways to reduce that risk substantially. Our forefathers built barns that still stand today. They survived 100 winters or more without collapsing. Yet some of the barns that went down last winter were only a few years



old. The phrase "they don't build them like they used to" seems to be especially applicable to dairy barns.

Today barns are constructed differently because farming methods have changed a lot in recent years. The old barns were usually quite narrow and featured steeply pitched slate or steel roofs. This allowed the snow to slide off easily after each storm.

Constructed of heavy timbers, they were built to take the snow loads they were frequently subjected to. In contrast, many recently constructed barns are much wider and usually have a lower pitched roof. These roofs allow the snow to accumulate with each passing storm. This causes a tremendous amount of stress on the entire structure. The weight of accumulated snow

and ice on even a medium size barn can be heavier than an army tank! Here are some helpful suggestions that, hopefully, help you to "collapse proof" your barns:

- Remove snow from roof immediately when you suspect your barn cannot handle the weight.
- Replace weak and rotting timbers promptly. Roof

rafters deteriorate and lose strength with age and should be checked for soundness occasionally.

- When building a new barn pay close attention to snow load ratings. What may be perfectly adequate in the Midwest may not cut the mustard in our area. If you are considering a pre-fab construction type barn check how well the manufacturer's barns have performed in your area.
- Be aware that the type and pitch of your roof greatly affect what the design strength should be. We recommend a minimum rating of at least 50 lbs. per square foot.
- Drifting can cause deep snow to collect on certain areas of your roof causing a severe overload. Remove this accumulation as soon as possible to avoid a partially collapsed barn.

## John Roberts Hired As First Small Farm Operation Coordinator

By Laura DiPietro, VAAFM

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (VAAFM) has hired John Roberts as its first Small Farm Operation Coordinator. The purpose of this new position is to contribute to an overall strategy to assist in the reduction of phosphorus runoff into the watersheds of Lake Champlain.

John farmed for 36 years,

along with his wife Lisa, in the Middlebury, VT. They recently sold their herd of 170 registered Brown Swiss cows and retired from farming. In addition to dairy cows, John has broad experience with other livestock enterprises and cropping systems. John also has a wealth of experience on various committees, both national and statewide, that focused on conservation and environmental themes

and the role that the economically sustainable farm played in mitigating environmental impacts.

John will work with farmers to ensure understanding and compliance with the Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs) regulations on all farms not previously covered by either the Large Farm or Medium Farm regulations. Under the AAPs, the definition

of farming is quite broad and not limited to those who earn their living from the land. It encompasses cultivating livestock, fish, bees, Christmas trees, syrup, nursery stock, and more. Often under-appreciated, the AAPs have an important role to play in Vermont's environmental stewardship plans. Compliance with the AAPs is an important tool in reducing pollution run-off, in particular phosphorus run-

off, from Vermont's farms.

Initially John will be spending a good deal of time in the Franklin County area. John will work with farmers to assess the needs and obtain technical and financial assistance through partner organizations, when feasible.

The Agency of Ag is committed to helping the Vermont agricultural community meet the TMDL (Total Maximum

*continued on page 6*



# Fun Facts About Poinsettias

By Dr. Leonard Perry,  
University of Vermont  
Extension

**D**o you like trivia, or at least learning more about the top-selling holiday plant? If so, perhaps you will be interested in a dozen fun facts about the poinsettia plants you buy and see everywhere each December.

**Fact 1:** Did you know that the poinsettia's main attraction is not its flowers, but its leaves? The flowers of the plant are the yellow clustered buds in the center (termed "cyathia"). The colored leafy parts are actually bracts or modified leaves, that turn color in response to the plant forming flowers. When buying a poinsettia, make sure it has the buds, preferably not yet open.

**Fact 2.** Red is the most popular color, accounting for roughly three-quarters of all sales nationwide, followed by white and pink. The more than 100 varieties of poinsettias come in a range of colors from red, salmon, and apricot to yellow, cream, and white (but not blue—these are a designer color created with dyes). There are also unusual speckled or marbled varieties with several colors blended together. New varieties are introduced yearly.

**Fact 3.** How many poinsettias do you think are sold in a year? If you guessed over 34 million, you'd be in the ballpark. According to the 2013 USDA Floriculture

Statistics report, poinsettias accounted for about one-quarter (23 percent) of sales of all flowering potted plants. In economic terms, that's \$144 million out of a total of \$618 million in sales of all flowering potted plants.

Poinsettias remain the highest selling potted flowering plant. Of the traditional crops, Easter lilies are a distant second with \$22 million in sales. Potted orchids are higher value plants, so rated second in value (\$186 million in sales), but a mere 23 million were sold.

**Fact 4.** Although every state in the United States grows poinsettias commercially, California is the top producer with over 6 million pots grown, followed by North Carolina with 4.4 million pots sold, and Texas with about 3.7 million. Florida and Ohio round out the top 5, each with over 3 million poinsettias sold.

**Fact 5.** Did you know that in the wild or planted in tropical climates, the poinsettia can reach heights of 12 feet with leaves measuring six to eight inches across? It is actually a small tropical tree (Euphorbia pulcherrima) belonging to the Euphorbia plant family.

**Fact 6.** A native of southern Mexico, the poinsettia

blooms in December and has been used in that country to decorate churches for centuries. In the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, the Aztecs used the poinsettia leaves to dye fabric for clothing and the sap for medicinal purposes.



es, including to help control fevers. They also considered the red color a symbol of purity, and so poinsettias were traditionally part of religious ceremonies. In Mexico and Guatemala, the poinsettia is called (translated) the "Flower of the Holy Night" referring to Christmas Eve.

**Fact 7.** Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, an amateur botanist and first United States ambassador to Mexico, introduced the plant that became known as the poinsettia to this country. He discovered a shrub with brilliantly colored red leaves growing by the side of the road in Taxco, Mexico, in December 1828 and sent cuttings home to his plantation in Greenville, South Carolina.

Most botanists at that time dismissed the poinsettia

as a weed? Fortunately, Poinsett continued to study and breed this plant in his greenhouse, sharing plants with his horticultural friends. It soon gained acceptance as a holiday plant, despite its very short bloom time. It wasn't until the 1960s that researchers were able to successfully breed plants to bloom more than just a few days.

**Fact 8.** Here's another bit of interesting trivia. December 12 is National Poinsettia Day ([www.poinsettaday.com/](http://www.poinsettaday.com/)). Never heard of it? Believe it or not, the United States has observed this official day since the mid-1800s. It honors the man and the plant he introduced. Poinsett died Dec. 12, 1851.

**Fact 9.** For much of the last century, the Paul Ecke Ranch in Southern California produced the majority of poinsettia cuttings and plants purchased in the U.S. and many of those worldwide. Paul Ecke, Jr. is considered the father of this industry, as it is he who figured out a method for getting poinsettias to branch. Prior they grew tall so stems had to be bent back into a loop, or "tromboned," to keep them at a desirable height. It is from this plant and firm that the football bowl game in San Diego gets its name.

**Fact 10.** True or False: The poinsettia is a poisonous plant. If you answered false, you're correct. The plant has been tested repeatedly and cleared of this charge by authorities such as the National Poison Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and the American Medical Association. However, this doesn't mean that poinsettias are meant to be eaten. If ingested, this plant can cause stomach irritation and discomfort. Cats and children also may choke on the fibrous parts, so be sure to keep these plants out of their reach. The sticky white sap also may cause skin irritation for some people.

**Fact 11.** Do you know the best way to prolong the life of this Christmas plant? Avoid hot or cold drafts, keep the soil moist not soggy, and place in a room with sufficient natural light and temperatures of around 60 to 70 degrees F. Water when the soil begins to dry. Once the leaves wilt too far, it's too late.

Above all, protect it from exposure to wind or cold on the way home from the store. Poinsettias are highly sensitive to cold temperatures and even a few minutes of exposure to 50-degree F or lower temperatures will cause them to wilt. But when cared for properly, poinsettias usually will outlast your desire to keep them!

**Fact 12.** The most common question many have is,

*continued on page 6*

# Trillium Farm Thrives with Support from Farm Viability

By Ian Hartman, Farm Viability

Since their humble beginnings with one CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) member in 2005, Sara and James Donegan of Hinesburg have turned Trillium Hill Farm into a successful vegetable and beef farm. Over the past 8 years they have created a financially viable, family run business, a positive community space and place for people to purchase fresh, healthy food. The Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program (VFFVP) and Burlington's Intervale Center were instrumental for the success of Trillium Hill Farm.

Trillium Hill Farm started as a small raw milk goat dairy and vegetable CSA on a parcel of land in Hinesburg that had been in James's family for over 100 years. James and his wife Sara had always dreamed of maintaining the property as a family farm, but after milking goats and selling vegetables for a number of years they wanted to take a step back and make sure that whatever they did on the farm was efficient and profitable.

In 2012 they turned to the Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program, a business planning and technical assistance service for farmers,

food, and forestry businesses. VFFVP matched Trillium Hill with Sam Smith at the Intervale Center, to provide one-on-one assistance.

Smith's business savvy turned out to be a good fit for the Donegans, and he became their business planning guide for the next two years.

With help from Smith and other production specialists, the couple looked into the feasibility of several changes, focusing on both financial feasibility as well as whether these enterprises would fit their farm and personal goals. With the clarity provided by their projections, they made a decision: Trillium Hill would replace the goat dairy with beef, using a CSA model in which customers pre-pay for beef to be delivered at a later date in order to help fund the infrastructure changes needed up front. They also decided to expand their vegetable operation and farmstand.

In May 2013 the Donegans purchased a small herd of beef cattle and began a regimen of rotational grazing. Through the Farm and Forest Viability Program, they were paired with additional consultants to advise on soil fertility and pasture health, on improving the labor and energy efficiency of the vegetable enterprise, and on financial management.

The Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program pro-



vides business planning and technical assistance to about 60 farms each year, and has worked with over 400 farmers since beginning in 2003. Farmers regularly use the program to (i) help improve business management, (ii) plan for expansion or diversification, (iii) change markets or developing new products, (iv) start value-added processing on the farm, or (v) prepare for ownership transition. The program also provides competitive grants and technical assistance to assist farmers implement their business plans.

In addition to the Intervale Center, VFVP pairs farmers with business advisors at partnering organizations NOFA-VT, UVM Extension, and Land For Good. Once enrolled, the farmers spend the first six to twelve months with staff analyzing past records, articulating goals, assessing strengths and weaknesses, and developing a plan for going forward. The second year is devoted to imple-

menting the plan and fine tuning it. Program enrollees currently range from farmers who are relatively new to farming to ones who have been in business for up to 30 years.

"Each farm has specific challenges, and our goal is to support farmers in their quest to become more efficient and profitable," says Smith, who manages business advising at the Intervale Center. The Intervale Center has been a VFFVP partner since VFFVP's inception in 2003. The Intervale's program, called Success on Farms, is designed to work with all types of farms in various stages of business development.

Another farm that is currently receiving Farm and Forest Viability Program services from the Intervale Center is Seedfolks Farm. Nicole Duch and Ben Uris are young, driven, and meticulous—a powerful combination in the tough market that exists for local vegetables.

They farmed together on rented land in Hyde Park, building skills and a market base with minimal land or infrastructure investment.

In order to expand their operation and meet the demands of the Montpelier Farmers Market and their wholesale accounts, they moved to Cabot for the 2013 season. In addition to working with Sam Smith, they were paired with business planning advisor and farmer Richard Wiswall, who pointed Nicole and Ben toward various land tenure options,

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## John Roberts

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Daily Load) targets for phosphorous that will be agreed upon in 2014 with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. John brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role, and will be an important player in this process.



# UVM Extension Offers Train-the Trainer Course on Farm Mechanization and Tractor Ed

By Kristen Mullins, UVM Extension

A new train-the-trainer course, offered through the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension New Farmer Project, will help prepare agricultural educators, farmers and farm service providers with the knowledge and skills needed

to teach farm mechanization strategies and tractor education to adults.

Ground Work includes five online sessions plus one full day of hands-on training at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction on May 21 or 22 (individual's choice). Online sessions will run from 11 a.m. to noon on Jan. 23, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10 and

May 29.

Participants also will take part in three on-line sharing sessions in the 18 months after course completion.

The course will teach participants how to deliver information to beginning farmers, farm employees and apprentices on basic tractor use, operation and maintenance and effective farm mechanization strategies. Instructors include John Hendrickson, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems; Kristen Mullins, UVM Extension New Farmer Project; Sam Steel, Pennsylvania State University Department of Agriculture and Biological Engineering; Seth Wilner, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension; and Richard

Wiswall, a Plainfield certified organic vegetable, herb and flower grower and author of *The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook*.

December 20 is the deadline to apply or to request a disability-related accommodation; contact Kristen Mullins at (802) 656-2034 or (800) 571-0668 (toll-free in Vermont) for more information.

The on-line application can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/tractor-ed>.

Tuition is free, thanks to a Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Professional Development Program grant.

Overnight accommodations, if needed to attend the in-person training, is also available.

## For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Angelika Piatek, Chicago, IL to buy, sell, process, package and transport dairy products in the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets  
Dairy Section Office  
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by January 15, 2013.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.



## Poinsettias

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can I get the poinsettia to rebloom next year, and if so, how? Yes is the short answer, but it requires some work and regularity. If you want to try though, keep in mind that flowering in this plant responds to short daylengths (or actually long nights). They need daylight for no more than 10 hours daily, beginning around October 1. So you'll need to place plants in a darkened closet or room (with no lights at any time) from about 5pm to 7am or so, daily, for 8 to 10 weeks. Don't forget to bring it back into the daylight every day! Even if you are successful,

keep in mind that much superior plants will be available from greenhouses and growers, as well as new varieties in all sizes.

Dr. Leonard Perry is the Greenhouse and Nursery Extension Specialist for the University of Vermont. In this role Dr. Perry provides information and programming to the industry of Vermont, region, and North America. Home gardeners in Vermont and surrounding areas know him from his frequent television appearances on *Across the Fence* and radio. As a Professor, Dr. Perry along with graduate students has



*an active research program on all aspects of perennial production and overwintering. Students know him from his courses at UVM on Garden Plants and Indoor Flowers, with the*

*Herbaceous Garden Plants course now available to anyone totally online. Dr. Perry is becoming known across North America for his internet web site—Perry's Perennial Pages—at which he features information, links, news articles, research and more on herbaceous perennials. For more articles, visit his website at <http://perrysperennials.wordpress.com/>*



## Vermont Farm Viability Program

Now accepting applications from farmers and ag-related businesses for in-depth, one-on-one business planning and technical assistance. More than 97% of farmers surveyed report their business and financial analysis skills have improved since enrolling in the program! More information at: [www.vhcb.org/viability.html](http://www.vhcb.org/viability.html) or call Liz Gleason at 802 828 3370

A program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

# Applications for Conservation Stewardship Program Due January 17

*Popular Farm Bill conservation program seeks producer participation*

By Janice Griffiths  
Special Assistant  
Office of External &  
Intergovernmental Affairs,  
USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is opening the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for new enrollments for federal fiscal year 2014. Starting today

through January 17, 2014, producers interested in participating in the program can submit applications to NRCS.

"Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are going the extra mile to conserve our nation's resources," NRCS Chief Jason Weller said. "Through their conservation actions, they are ensuring that

their operations are more productive and sustainable over the long run."

The CSP is an important Farm Bill conservation program that helps established conservation stewards with taking their level of natural resource management to the next level to improve both their agricultural production and provide valuable conservation benefits such as cleaner and more abundant water, as well as healthier soils and better wildlife habitat.

Weller said today's announcement is another example of USDA's comprehensive focus on promoting environmental conservation and strengthening the rural economy, and it is a reminder that a new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill is pivotal to continue these efforts. CSP is now in its fifth year and so far, NRCS has partnered with producers to enroll more than 59 million acres across the nation.

The program emphasizes conservation performance — producers earn higher payments for higher performance. In CSP, producers install conservation enhancements to make positive changes in soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, animal resources and energy.

Some popular enhancements used by farmers and ranchers

include:

- Using new nozzles that reduce the drift of pesticides, lowering input costs and making sure pesticides are used where they are most needed;
- Modifying water facilities to prevent bats and bird species from being trapped;
- Burning patches of land, mimicking prairie fires to enhance wildlife habitat; and
- Rotating feeding areas and monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management.

Eligible landowners and operators in all states and

territories can enroll in CSP through January 17th to be eligible during the 2014 federal fiscal year. While local NRCS offices accept CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods.

To be eligible for this year's enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to NRCS by the closing date.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

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The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets  
Dairy Section Office  
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by January 15, 2013.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.



# News Briefs from the Vermont Food Atlas

By Rachel Carter,  
Farm to Plate

Vermont Farm to Plate is weaving together all components of Vermont's food system to strengthen the working landscape, build the resilience of farms, improve environmental quality, and increase local food access for all Vermonters.

The Farm to Plate Strategic Plan—Vermont's statewide plan to grow the agricultural economy and the Farm to Plate Network—the 300+ organizations working to implement the plan are both fully accessible on the Vermont Food Atlas ([www.vtfoodatlas.com](http://www.vtfoodatlas.com)).

The Vermont Food Atlas also features a searchable map and database for the state's entire food and farm sector. Getting listed is free

and includes a profile that can be found in both internet and Atlas searches. If you don't have a website, the Atlas gives you free internet exposure and if you do have a website, you can link to it from the Atlas and help boost your internet presence. Create a profile at [www.vtfoodatlas.com/atlas/register](http://www.vtfoodatlas.com/atlas/register).

The Atlas also features food and farm industry events, jobs, and news taking place around the state. Once you create and login to the Atlas, you can post your news, jobs, or events too! (at no cost) Check out some recent news stories:

**Bob-White Systems' Low Input-Low Impact LiLi Pasteurizer Passes State Inspection & Receives Favorable FDA Review—Now Approved for Use in All 50 States**

The LiLi pasteurizer, Bob-White Systems' Low Input-Low Impact continuous-flow HTST pasteurizer, has passed inspections by the State of Vermont and received a favorable review from the Food & Drug Administration and is in full compliance with all pertinent regulations, including the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). The machine is now approved for legal use in all 50 states, pending local, routine inspections. The LiLi pasteurizer operates at tight temperature tolerances, and the efficient inline system and standard, modular construction save both labor and time when compared to vat pasteurization. The on-board sanitizing and self-cleaning technology virtually eliminates time-consuming prep and clean-up. More importantly, the LiLi opens up new income streams for dairy farmers, groups of dairy farmers and others who wish to produce and sell value-added dairy

products locally.

Bob-White Systems provides innovative equipment, supplies, technology and resources for the local production of safe, farm-fresh dairy products. For more information on the LiLi pasteurizer and other small-scale dairy equipment including bulk tanks, portable milking equipment, dairy and cheese making supplies for cows, sheep, goat, and water buffalo visit [www.bobwhitesystems.com](http://www.bobwhitesystems.com), email [bobwhite-systems@gmail.com](mailto:bobwhite-systems@gmail.com), or call 802-763-2777.

## Vermont Food Service Companies Embrace Local "Harvest of the Month"

Two of the major food service management companies in Vermont—Café Services and The Abbey Group—have joined the Harvest of the Month project and pledged to feature a variety of local produce year-round. Together these two companies serve 89

schools statewide. Their commitment more than doubles the number of students and communities benefitting from this new program. To date Harvest of the Month reaches over 40,000 students at 164 Vermont schools, with more joining every week. Harvest of the Month is helping to increase interest in local foods and scale up farm sales, which keep rising with the growth of the program.

Harvest of the Month kicked off this fall in Brattleboro with Food Connects and in Newport with Green Mountain Farm-to-School. To learn more, visit [www.foodconnects.org](http://www.foodconnects.org), call 802-258-8902 in Brattleboro; [www.GreenMountainFarmtoSchool.org](http://www.GreenMountainFarmtoSchool.org) or call 802-334-2044.

CBS News recently recognized Vermont as the trendsetter in the farm to table (aka farm to plate) movement that is now catching on all over the country. LaPlatte River Angus Farm in Shelburne and the Farmhouse Tap & Grill in Burlington we both featured in the national news segment as to how a direct farm and chef relationship balances farm viability with consumer demand. CBS noted, "Americans all over the country are starting to change the way they eat, with many consumers asking where their food comes from and more and more people want food to be local."

Local, as defined by Vermont's Farm to Plate statewide initiative is food produced or processed in Vermont and within 30 miles of any Vermont border.

## For Immediate Release

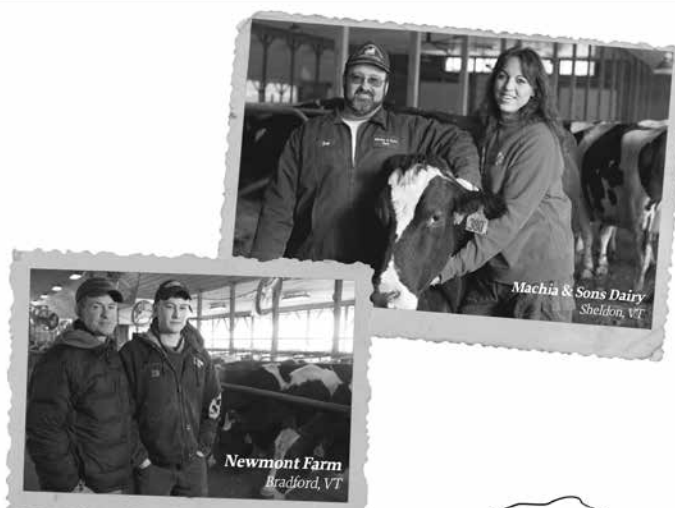
The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Cedar Hollow Farms, West Rutland, Vermont to buy, sell, process, package and transport dairy products in the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets  
Dairy Section Office  
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by January 15, 2013.

At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

## PROUDLY SUPPORTING VERMONT FARMERS



Efficiency Vermont

To learn more about saving money and energy on your farm, call us at 888-921-5990 or visit [www.efficiencyvermont.com/farms](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/farms).

## VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,  
University of Vermont  
Extension  
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or  
vern.grubinger@uvm.edu  
www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

## Reports From The Field

(Jericho) Winter greens are cranking along nicely, now starting first cuts on the last couple of houses, moving into second cuts on the others. We're patting ourselves on the back for doing a good job hardening off the greens this fall and managing house ventilation and row covers, such that we've yet to have any cold weather impact to the plants, even with several 5 degree nights under our belts. We've been pushing down our threshold for when to cover, double cover, etc. and finding that we can get away with a lot less covering that we've done in the past and greens seem more vibrant because of it, plus less work for us. Belatedly finishing transplanting into our new heated tunnel, which is awesomely big, and an exciting new learning opportunity. Cut the last large leaf spinach from the field Dec. 2, with some frost damage loss where the remay had a hole or two, but otherwise great stuff! Cut baby spinach in the field with no covering up until the first really cold spell in mid-November; it went through many nights

in the 15 to 18 degree range with no tip burn. Harvested it all before the 5 degree nights, and saw tip burn on remaining leaves after that. Pulled the last leeks on Dec. 6; we have been storing them unwashed upright in bulk bins with roots-on which is working great so far. Probably won't get to test this storage method much beyond three weeks though as they are selling as fast as we clean them. Wholesale market demand is strong. Winter farmers' market demand seems down a bit, but perhaps the late Thanksgiving or the change in market schedule has thrown customers for a loop. Looking forward to the holidays and time with family.

(Weare NH) I continued to be amazed at how much the kale is still producing in the field. I have it covered with one layer of light remay and though it is a pain to deal with when it gets wet and frozen, it seems to make a real difference. It also seems to quite effective in keeping deer away, as the kale I have not covered looks like naked palm trees. I am trying over wintering scallions and carrots in raised beds with caterpillar tunnels. In the high tunnel, lettuce, spinach and arugula are growing well. The one winter market I am in is a bit disappointing as the inside location is not complete and I have had to cancel my attendance when it is held outside. Greens, not to mention me, do not do well in wind chills of 20 degrees. My direct sales are better than expected, and I have been getting more inquiries from cafes and the like for greens. Working on infrastructure projects and finalizing crop plans for next year.

(Little Compton RI) The last two hard freezes have been quite informative. We spent 48 hours before the first deep freeze grabbing every beet and carrot we could find and squirreling them away in a rented cooler. We had so much to do we just couldn't get to a quarter acre of beautiful headed-up broccoli. At the height of the first freeze we checked on the broccoli to find it frozen hard. For kicks we picked some for dinner and it cooked up just as fresh tasting as ever. We knew we had a large order in two weeks so we thought we were clever when we cut 12 bushels and stuck it in some vacant freezers. The day came to deliver the broccoli and we tested its thaw-ability to find it turned to mush and stank to high heaven. In a pinch, we checked the original field to find some beautiful but slightly wind-burned broccoli. Still firm and quite sellable. Even some that we couldn't fit in the freezers and had kept in the regular cooler for over a week was in remarkably good shape. The same was true for some of field lettuce. The lettuce we had put under hoops and remay ended up getting damaged from the ferocious winds which shredded the remay and even worse stretched it so much it ended up smacking up and down on the lettuce and virtually sanded it to death. Bottom-line: don't assume a couple of hard freezes will do in a crop. In the last two weeks the thermometer made two trips down to 14 degrees but it was the drying aspect of the cold fronts that did the worst damage. Next season we will get away from thousands of feet of single-hooped remay covered beds and shift to a temporary greenhouse like a 18' or 20' gothic style setup, much like

our Haygrove, using shoe-lace cross-over ropes held in place with tree anchors. We will still use hoops and remay inside the greenhouse but will not have the winds torturing every piece of remay. It should be easy to pull on and off without wind inside. Meanwhile our local winter markets are down about 12% except for the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Sales and general demand for produce appears weak; mostly old faithful customers; not a lot of new faces.

(Warren) Storage crops moving faster than expected. Most likely sold out by the end of January. Still picking away at high tunnel salad greens. Getting just enough warmth each week for things to thaw out. Getting pretty sick of picking em though. Each year I'm amazed at claytonia's ability to regrow in 2-3 weeks this time of year.

(Westminster West) Finally put all sales in for the year and though a struggle early in the season it still wound up 12% over last year, so color me happy! Started a large scale drainage project last month, I realized that improving what we own is less expensive than moving or buying more land. Already I can see the effects in water movement. Ordered another greenhouse, I always say that is it, but then a few years later we seem to buy another. Looking forward to traveling and visiting family in our 'quiet' season and to the NEVF show in Manchester NH to catch up with friends and learn some new things.

(Ange-Gardien, PQ) Another spinach harvest last Thursday. Mild and sunny weather makes the winter crops grow. Even with low sunlight, fan would come

on the unheated greenhouse as the temps would go over 15 degrees Celsius between 11:30 and 14:00. Green onions are waiting in the greenhouse soil for proper conditions. A little bit of night crawler on spinach. Sold all my 'endives' in 10 seconds. Market here is just eager for leafy green in the winter.

(Montpelier) First winter market was this past Saturday. Attendance was good but sales remain flat. The proliferation of craft and gift markets on Saturdays must be having an impact. Due to a quirky schedule a number of growers have pulled out. Not sure how our customers will respond to something that does not happen on a regular schedule. GH 3 has a very busy mole in it. Rather frustrated trying to figure out how to do him in. More for the mess he makes and the soil he is moving out of the beds and into the pathways. The mild weather has been good so far and the spinach is recovering from the hard early harvesting required due to the very mild October. CSA sales for the winter are the same as last year. Value-added sales are really doing very well with a lot of interest. No late season deer at all this fall. Largely due to the high wild apple forage available to them. It certainly is not my reputation as a hunter. End of year is rolling around, seed catalogues are showing up, and already thinking about how to go at things a bit differently next season. Perhaps I can corner the market on Vermont Grown kumquats?

(Plainfield) The long lasting warmth of this fall somehow still left me with a bunch of end of season projects undone. We will pull our plastic mulch first thing

*continued on page 15*



MARKET REPORT

Wholesale Prices

December 9, 2013

Wholesale prices paid per dozen for Vermont Grade A brown eggs delivered to retail stores.

Vermont Egg Prices:

Jumbo ..... \$2.53  
X-Large ..... \$2.25  
Large ..... \$2.20  
Medium ..... \$1.45

Demand is good and Market and Supply are good.

You can find more reports online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm>  
This is the web source for USDA Market News



Northampton, MA • December 10, 2013

All prices are per hundredweight on the hoof unless otherwise indicated.

Source: Northampton Cooperative Auction Association, Inc., [www.northamptonlivestockauction.homestead.com](http://www.northamptonlivestockauction.homestead.com)

Calves:	LOW	HIGH	
Good & Choice: 61-75 lbs	10.00	46.00	cwt
76-95 lbs	30.00	57.00	cwt
96-105 lbs	30.00	56.00	cwt
106 lbs and up	20.00	56.00	cwt
Farm Calves	60.00	155.00	cwt
Starter Calves	40.00	50.00	cwt
Feeder Calves	20.00	70.00	cwt
Vealers	none		cwt
Bulls	none		cwt
Heifers	60.00	80.00	cwt
Replacement Cows	none		each
Steers	none		cwt

Cows:	LOW	HIGH	
Canners	30.00	71.50	cwt
Cutters	72.00	84.00	cwt
Utility	85.00	93.00	cwt
Sows	45.00	59.00	cwt
Hogs	50.00	57.00	cwt
Boars	12.00		cwt
Shoats	50.00	64.00	cwt
Feeder Pigs	23.00	42.00	each
Lambs	50.00	325.00	cwt
Sheep	20.00	55.00	cwt
Goats	60.00	220.00	each
Rabbits	0.50	6.50	each
Hay (6 lots)	2.80	3.10	bale

Addison County Commission Sales • Middlebury, VT • November 18, 2013

Cattle: 143					
Calves: 250					
Slaughter Cows					
Breakers 75 - 80% lean	75.00	77.00	cwt		
Boners 80 - 85% lean	67.50	79.00	cwt		
Lean 85 - 90% lean	40.00	68.00	cwt		
Feeder Calves					
Holstein Bulls 92-125 lbs.	62.00	165.00	cwt		
80-90 lbs.	60.00	80.00	cwt		
Vealers (good & choice) 70-120 lbs.	25.00	50.00	cwt		

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising in Agriview

Classified Ads: **Free to subscribers only.** Limited to two ads per issue, ads will run for two issues. **Must include subscriber number with ad request** (number appears at the top of the mailing label)

Deadline For Ads: 10 days prior to the publication date.

Display Ads: Information available upon request

Classified advertisements must be sent:

- By mail: (see address on page 2)
- By e-mail: (to [Agr-agriview@state.vt.us](mailto:Agr-agriview@state.vt.us))
- By fax: (802) 828-2361
- Online at: <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/Agriview/agriviewclassified.html>
- We do not accept ads over the phone.

Only items of an agricultural nature will be listed. The only real estate which will be listed are tracts of Vermont land two to five acres or more which are being used or can be used for agricultural purposes. All Feed, Hay and Forage ads must have county, town, and phone number, **and must be renewed each month.**

The Secretary reserves the right to make a final decision on the eligibility of items listed. The editor reserves the right to censor and edit ads. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets assumes no responsibility for transactions resulting through advertising in *Agriview*. Advertisers are cautioned that it is **against the law** to misrepresent any product or service offered in a public notice or an advertisement carried in any publication delivered by the U.S. Mail.

Ads must be limited to 40 words or less.

Bees & Honey

Honey qt. \$19, pt. \$11, propolis 2 oz. tincture \$16, fresh frozen pollen \$28 qt., [lindenap@gmail.com](mailto:lindenap@gmail.com), Charles Andros, Linden Apiaries, 603-756-9056, Alstead, NH. (1/14)

5-FRAME COLONIES:

Honeybees with our own Northern Survivor stock queens. Order now for April-May pick-up. \$140 each/no frame exchange. Also order Spring Queens. We've had much success with our bees and some very happy customers. Singing Cedars Apiary at 77 Singing Cedars Rd. Orwell, Vt. 05760 (802)948-2057 or order on-line at [www.vtbees.com](http://www.vtbees.com) (1/14)

Cattle

Angus Feeder Calves, 40 hd. Steers, 25hd. Heifers, weaned, vaccinated, dewormed. For Nov-Dec. Delivery, will average 650-

700#. Prefer to sell as one large group, might consider splitting, call for current price. Lucas Cattle Co. 802-779-7261. (1/14)

Organic Dairy Milking Jersey Crossed Cows for sale, we have approximately two dozen certified organic dairy cows for sale. Mostly jersey crosses, and are currently milking (at various stages of lactation). Our farm is located on 1344 Ballard Road, Georgia, VT Call Ron Sweet 802-524-5131. (1/14)

Beef Cows and Cows, Calf pairs also steers and bulls, contact 802-635-2633. (1/14)

Fullblood,registered Lowline Angus bull DOB 4/27/13 contact 802-287-9170 (1/14)

Grandson of Doc Holliday. Very calm and friendly. \$1000.00 OBO 802-287-

9170 (1/14)

Jersey heifer. registered, certified organic. due with first calf January first, \$1800. Contact 802-426-3331 (1/14)

2 Hereford cow/calf pairs. 2.5yr old cow w/ heifer calf 4 months old. 3.5 yr old cow w/ bull calf 4 months old. \$1400 each pair. \$2600 for both. Northfield. 802-595-2065. (1/14)

5 year old grade Black Angus bull. Excellent genetics from Ohlde Cattle Co in Kansas. Very thick frame 4 bull bred for grass-only production. Very prolific. \$2500, overwintering possible for a fee. Tunbridge, 802-889-3211. (1/14)

Full blood Lowline angus bull calf. Grandson of Doc Holliday, DOB 4/27/13. Calm and friendly. \$1000.00 OBO. Contact 802-287-9170 or email

## CLASSIFIEDS

j.parker@myfairpoint.net  
(1/14)

Small herd of 8 Angus cows ranging in age from 3 to 10 years old and 8 calves born between June and July. \$1400.00 per pair or will sell cows separately for \$1.00 per lb. Not certified but could be.

Fed hay and grass only. Herd is in good order. Call Dennis at Sunnybrook Farm 802-296-2491. (1/14)

Angus Heifer 17 months \$1200, 5 yr old open Angus \$1300; Bred Jersey short horn (White) \$1200; Dutch Belt Steer \$900. 802-229-4628. (1/14)

Blonde d' Aguitaine registered purebred bulls. Google "Blondcattle" to check out breed. Blonde Cattle are noted for their quiet disposition, rapid/efficient weight gain and a long (yielding more premium cuts) carcass. Inspection by appointment. Select, purchase and take delivery by 2/15/14 and save with the 2013 price. Private treaty. Paddock Farms, Plainfield, VT 802-426-4086 leave message w/best time or email beefbypfb@yahoo.com. (2/14)

9 year old PB Belted Galloway (Settled, 4/2014) with 8 month mismarked heifer by her side. Excellent mother. \$1500.00. Newbury, NH 603-763-9422 (2/14)

Wanted: Dairy Cattle, beef, bulls, steers, feeders, veal, sheep and goats, call 413-441-3085 and leave a message. (2/14)

Holstein heifer calves for sale. One week old, dehorned, navels dipped, given colostrum, healthy and eating well, can have tails docked if you'd like. A.I. from dams in a 28,000 lb. herd. Selling because we have started enough for our own replacements. We

will have aprox. 25 born between now and March 1. Take one or all. \$100 each. Onan Whitcomb (802) 878-3334. (2/14)

9 year old PB Belted Galloway (Settled, 4/2014) with 8 month mismarked heifer by her side. Excellent mother. \$1500.00. Newbury, NH 603-763-9422.

20 Certified Organic Herford Yearlings! Absolutely stellar (and large) animals with plenty of growing left and ready to breed. Call 802-782-8833 (2/14)

Two miniature black angus bull calves, full blood and sired Kypitomite, going to be excellent bulls, call Bruce 802-748-9830. (2/14)

### Employment

Log Yard Scaler, full time; Gutches Lumber Co., Canaan, NY; Scaling and grading, loading and unloading trucks, data collection and transfer, environmental and regulatory compliance, racking of receipts, and sales. Forestry background required. Contact Dave Dence, 802 379-4272 or drdence@gutches.com. (1/14)

### Equipment

One pair of Canadian Chains sized for 14.9-28 all purpose R-1 Armstrong tractor tire. Cleats in good condition. Call 802-824-6304 asking \$475.00. (1/14)

Highlander Jr. Hydraulic Sander stainless steel \$4000.00 contact 603-543-3616. (1/14)

Simplicity 725 tractor '62, 10hp cast iron block upgrade, excellent running, maint-free battery, new 42" mid-mower, wheel weights, lights, plow, vacuum, chains, lawn spiker, sickle bar, manuals, service record; classic! \$695/BRO photo available contact 802-685-3321. (1/14)

Selling this amazing vintage antique "walk behind" horse plow. Great collectible to display as a lawn decoration, can be viewed on our lawn at 1344 Ballard Rd, Georgia call 802-524-5131. (1/14)

Rear cargo box for 3PH tractor 4'x3' professionally designed and built welded steel frame with pressure treated wood bed and sides, nearly new, very rugged \$400 contact 802-685-3321. (1/14)

John Deere KBA transport harrows, need some basic work. \$950. Tunbridge, 889-3211. (1/14)

Arctic snowplows, full line, call for pricing, 603-529-3040, Weare NH (1/14)

Used tractors and farm equipment, haying equipment our specialty, call 603-529-3040 Weare NH (1/14)

CI 585- w/ 2250 ldr- 4 WD- 55 hp- Nice!- \$12,500; Int'l 656- diesel-65hp- \$4500; Gehl 250 tandem manure spreader- \$2200; Woods 6' Bush hog..\$1250; JD 8' KBA-Trans. Harrows- \$1500; Fransgard Winch V-5000- \$2300. Full line of other farm equipment available! www.youngsmilkyway-farm.com or 802-885-4000 (1/14)

30 foot pole \$30.00, tractor tube fits tire 12-4-28 \$40 contact 802-426-3564 (1/14)

Woods Model PRD 8400 finish mower seven foot cut excellent shape contact 802-388-7878 (1/14)

Hesston tractor, 80-66, 80 HP, 2 wheel drive, 4800 hours, nice shape, good tires \$7100.00. 2004 Ford F350 extended cab pick up, 5.4 engine, auto, 4WD, dumping bed, some rust, 118,600 miles, runs good \$5000.00. Gooseneck plate assembly, \$100.00, trades or best offers always considered contact 802-236-4917. (1/14)

N.H. 900 Chopper with 6ft grass head \$2500 contact 802-537-2435. (1/14)

Highlander Jr. Hydraulic Sander Stainless Steel Approx 3yd good condition contact 603-543-3616. (1/14)

2008 F350 6 speed V-10 Dully set up with flat-bed Goose neck hitch used daily \$10,000 contact 802-592-3356. (1/14)

Dairy equip: 10-gal stainless pails and lids; bulk tank washer; CIP cleaning system; info@northcountry-creamery.com or Ashlee @ 518-645-2697 (1/14)

Allied 35ft x 6inch portable grain auger. pto driven. bought a longer one. \$700. Deutz Allis loader 435. quick mount. \$1500. OBO. 1980 International Silage truck, 16ft alu. dump, auto tailgate. single axle Dt 466, 5x2 trans run great \$6000. OBO. call 802-989-0659. (1/14)

Farmall Super C, 1952, reconditioned and ready to work or show! \$3000 Farmall Super A, 1950, I have two of these magnificent tractors for sale. Both restored and again, ready for show or work. Woods Mower and plow & chains. \$3000 each. All have hydraulic lift, PTO and pulley option, wheel weights and good tread on the tires. Shouldn't every farm have a Farmall? Please email David@Monkshoodnursery.com for more information & pictures. (1/14)

Farmall Super C, 1952, reconditioned and ready to work or show! \$3000. Farmall Super A, 1950, I have two of these magnificent tractors for sale, both restored and again ready for show or work. Woods Mower and plow & Chains \$3000 each. All hydraulic lift, PTO and pulley option, wheel weights and good tread on the tires. Email david@

monkshoodnursery.com. (2/14)

Commercial Meat Band Saw S.S. and Galv contact 802-365-4000 evenings (2/14)

Saw Rig with blade to fit John Deere or International mounts on front end of tractor with side pulley \$300.00 contact 603-543-3616 (2/14)

Dairy Equipment for sale: Universal milking claws, DeLaval stainless steel shells, Boumatic pulsators and a Mueller plate cooler all priced to mailto:sell.gsearles@verizon.net 518-499-0239 Whitehall NY (2/14)

TMR Mixer Wagon. NDE 551LP vertical mixer with 2 speed gear box, rt. hand conveyer discharge & scales. 510 cubic ft. plus rubber extension. 540 PTO, new knives. \$11,000. 802-434-3269 (2/14)

2 pickup fuel tanks; 110 gallon with pump, filter, meter, hose & Shut off nozzle asking \$1000 OBO; 75 gallon Aluminum with no pump asking \$300 OBO, contact Al Highter at 802-373-3024 (2/14)

## TWINE & PLASTIC Pre-Order Special!

Clover & Winmore Brand

**Order now, Pay later**

If the price drops—you pay less—never more!

These prices guaranteed thru 12/31 early order

## BALE WRAP

Available in white, green & black



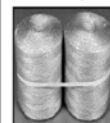
20" \$63/Roll



30" \$77/Roll

## POLY & SISAL TWINE

7,200 up to 20,000 Poly available



Sisal

9,000 \$42/Bundle

Poly

7,200 \$27/Roll • 20,000 \$22/Roll

**Net Wrap** 48" X 9,844' \$218  
51" X 9,844' cover-edge \$238

ALL SIZES available in Poly, Twine, & Net!  
(please call if you don't see what you need)

**BLISS FARM ENTERPRISES**

"Farmer to Farmer" Sales

802-875-2031 • www.blissfarm.com • Chester, VT



## CLASSIFIEDS

2007 Case/IH JX60 tractor with 34 Original hours!! 55HP engine, 45 Pto horsepower, Independent PTO, 3 cylinder diesel, Cat 2 hitch, 12X 12 Shuttle transmission, Absolutely as new! \$15000 Kubota L2650 4X4 diesel tractor with loader, new rear tires(R-4) Power steering, 8X8 shuttle transmission and only 750 Hours. Real nice tractor. \$9500 Fransgard 2800 3 Point logging winch for tractors up to 40 horsepower, Like new, \$1950 Call 802-885-4669, Springfield VT (2/14)

Int'l 656- diesel-65hp- loader- chains \$4800. CI 585-w/ 2250 ldr- 4 WD- 55 hp- Nice!- \$12,500. Kuhn FC300- 10' Disk moco-flail- Fresh cutterbar! \$6500. Kuhn FC250- 8' Disk moco-flail- Fresh cutterbar!...\$5500. Gehl 250 tandem manure spreader- \$2200. JD 54 manure spreader....\$1450. 4', 5' & 6' Bush hogs....\$800. & up Fransgard Winch V-5000- \$2300. 802-885-4000 (2/14)

8ft Drop Fertilizer Lime spreader \$8,000; 40ft John Deere Conveyer on wheels needs new tires \$1500; Snow plow with frame & lift cyl off Farmall Super C tractor \$2000; John Deere 1010 crawler gas manual angle blade works good ask \$5200, contact 802-674-5710 if no answer leave message. (2/14)

1-3 Point hitch bale spear \$125, call Bruce 802-748-9830. (2/14)

1080 Massey Ferguson tractor – set seized engine for part or fix up \$1500 old drum disc mower needs seal and bencing \$800; First choice sickle bar mower 7' \$1000; 1071 hesston mower conditioner \$1000; Allis-Chalmers square baler \$800 or best offer contact 802-477-3820. (2/14)

**Hay, Feed & Forage**

Benson/Orwell; large quantities of dry 1st cut round bales, net wrapped; 4x5, 850# bales \$35 each, 4x6, 1250# bales \$55 each; volume discounts available. Limited quantity 2nd cut wrapped round bales, very good quality \$50 each. Contact 802-779-7261. (1/14)

Organic 4' x 5' 2013 dry unwrapped round bales \$40; 2013 organic square bales 1st cut \$5, mulch bales \$3; 2012 8 x 200 2nd cut haylage \$30/ ton contact 802-334-2401 or 802-323-9793. (1/14)

1st cut 4x4 wrapped baleage, off fertilized meadows \$40.00/bale call 802-236-4917. (1/14)

Organic Hay dry round & square unwrapped baylage 1st and 2nd cut contact 802-592-3356. (1/14)

1st cut hay small square bales. Nice horse hay or calves. 3.50 at the barn. call 802-989-0659 (1/14)

Dutton Berry Farm Fine, weed free 1st and 2nd cut hay \$4.50 and \$5.50 per bale at our barn in Windham, VT Delivery Available Please Call George @ (802) 380-3898 for more information or to set up an appointment (1/14)

2nd cut good quality, tender Hay 18% \$5.00 contact 802-483-2870. (2/14)

Organic 4' x 5' 2013 dry unwrapped round bales \$40; 2013 organic square bales 1st cut \$5, mulch bales \$3; 2012 8 x 200 2nd cut haylage \$30/ ton contact 802-334-2401 or 802-323-9793 (2/14)

20 NOFA Certified Organic 4' x 5' second cut round bales. Stored inside under cover. \$45 per bale. West Haven 802-265-4496 (2/14)

Certified Organic and Conventional 4'x5' round bales of 1st cutting, mixed



grass hay. Stored inside. \$50 each when you buy a tractor trailer load (38). Help with trucking arrangements. Whitehall NY 518-499-0239, gsearles@verizon.net (2/14)

For sale small square bales, first and second cut, and mulch. Delivery possible. Chittenden County, Shelburne Town, 802-985-2015 (2/14)

Certified organic hay sq bales, never rained on, \$4.25 per bale at barn can deliver 802-537-3167 (2/14)

Hay for sale, small square, first cut, second cut, and mulch. Delivery possible. Chittenden County, Shelburne Town tel phone 802-862-3741 (2/14)

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY**  
2013 1st cut square bales \$3/ bale; 2013 2nd cut square bales \$4/bale Mulch \$2/ bale contact 802-893-7883 (1/14)

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
Good Quality First or Second Cut Hay; large or small square bales whole or pressed bales at farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load, contact 802-849-6266. (1/14)

**WINDHAM COUNTY**  
Guilford – 2013 4x4 round baleage – some early cut – certified organic also conventional contact 802-254-6982. (2/14)

**WINDSOR COUNTY**  
Rochester - 2013 Hay for sale at the barn \$3.00/

bale, delivery extra call Stuart 802-767-4247. (1/14)

Springfield Processed Corn Silage.... \$60.00/ton loaded, Springfield 802-885-4000 (2/14)

**COUNTIES OUTSIDE OF VT**  
NOFA baleage and small squares 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cut. Jeff Young, Williamstown, MA 413-458-3424 (1/14)

**General**

Coverall Legend fabric building for sale 200' x 72' with 40' x 72' extension. Currently disassembled and stored in MA. \$15,000 as is where is. Call George 802-989-8200. (1/14)

Cedar fence posts 6, 7, 8 foot; cedar rail fence rustic 11ft \$6.50 ea.; Hay elevator, tube type 18ft new motor, belt \$650; Anderson Rock picker \$4950; N.H. 451 sickle bar mower, 7ft 3pt \$750; J. D. 336 baler w/k \$2950; Fertilizer spreader 3pt clean \$475; Brush Hog 4, 5 ft \$575 each; Kuhn 16ft tedder, clean \$4250; J.D. 1326 7ft mower-conditioner for parts \$750; Springtooth harrows, 10ft \$575; Ford 7600 diesel; J.D. 2440 diesel, cultivators; AC model 190xt new tires, new motor, contact 802-483-2870 (2/14)

Oster Clipmaster Livestock Trimmers/Clippers. This is a new set of trimmers for horses, cows, goats, and llamas. It was

used only once. The set includes the trimmers, tool box, extra blades and air intake screens. The set cost over \$350 and I am asking \$150. These trimmers are ideal for 4H animals. Please call Emily in Charlotte. (802) 425-4528 (2/14)

**Goats**

Wanted to buy or rent Boer Buck for November breeding, Harrisville, NH 603-827-3464. (1/14)

3 fullblood Boer bucks available. Born Feb/March. Would make great herd sires. Main Event bloodlines. CAE, CL, Johnes free herd. For pictures email khamilton811@yahoo.com 802-579-9223 (2/14)

Boer Goats for sale, herd reduction, 27 quality does have been with buck sine 11/16, would be an excellent starter herd or choose replacements, Orwell. Call for more information 802-349-4221, leave message or email wldiris@shoreham.net (2/14)

Long Field Farm is selling five Nubian/Alpine does, ages 5-6 years old, all have milk production records and can be sold bred for kidding in May or June, Trained to electric fence and grazing, have good feet. For more information, or to visit the farm, Call Lynn 802-563-2999 or by email juneiris@fairpoint.net. (2/14)

**Horses & Other Equine**

For sale due to health two Belgian geldings, UTD on shots, w/shoes very good at giving hay rides, sleigh rides, believe they would be okay at getting out some wood or lumber. The ones that called please call again, if you've called and no answer, don't give up have answering machine now and try another number, 802-295-2910 or 802-296-6814 and hope we can get together. Should



## CLASSIFIEDS

be good for someone just starting to use horses have some equipment too. (1/14)

Pair of Belgian Horses, 4 yrs and 6 yrs old, full brother and sister, also pair of 4 yrs and 7yrs old mare and gelding, contact 802-635-2633. (1/14)

Bashir Curly Mare double registered 14.3 hands, bay 9 years old has had 2 foals \$1200 also her purebred colt 6 months old bay \$500 might trade for mini mares or purebred boar doe goats, contact 802-476-3331. (1/14)

### Horse Equipment

Sleigh, 2 seats, 72" shafts, \$400, metal 3 tier saddle rack, holds 3 saddles, \$50. 15" synthetic Western saddle \$150. Never used 16 1/2" synthetic Western Saddle extra wide tree \$250, contact 603-756-4348. (2/14)

### Sheep

Fall born lambs ready to go after Nov. 24th \$60.00 and up, Harrisville, NH 603-827-3464. (1/14)

### Sugaring Equipment

3x12 King Wood Fired arch w/stack preheater hood, wood saver blower, new pans used very little 600 Gal. St. Steel Bulk tank for

sap storage \$7500, contact 802439-5568. (2/14)

Want to buy Sap delivered to Strafford Road, Tunbridge, VT. We have a long history of purchasing sap at fair prices. We can also provide advice for your getting set up. Call Bill at 802-889-5661 or Nate at 802-881-2255, or e-mail at ndanforth@gpinet.com for more information. (2/14)

### Swine

Triple Cross piglets, Certified Organic, ready by Halloween \$75 each. 683-4606 coxveg@hotmail.com (1/14)

### Wanted

Good used John Deere bailer with back kicker; 8 or 10ft Bog Harrow, must be in good condition, contact 603-543-3616. (1/14)

### Farm & Farmland

Property for sale: Hardwick VT 12 acres dead end, VAST access, 6 stall barn with tack room. Mostly wooded, turnout paddocks by barn. Can be cert. Organic, sub dividable, new 400 ft well. 3 frost free water sources. 1 bedroom home with loft. Propane/wood heat. Electric hot water. Foundation upgraded.

Many trails for riding. 4th class access to Nichols pond. NO owner financing outright sale only. Phone 802-751-9826. (1/14)

Farm for Sale Dummerston, VT – 138 acres – 2 houses, barn, other buildings, 29 acres open land including 16 acres commercial Christmas trees and 105 acres woods. \$290,000. Restricted by conservation easement and option to purchase at ag value. Vermont Land Trust seeks only buyers who will farm commercially. Contact Jon Ramsay at (802) 533-7705 or jramsay@vlt.org or <http://www.vlt.org/init>

## Winter Manure Spreading Ban Effective December 15

By Wendy Houston-Anderson, VAAFM

Under Vermont's Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs) regulations, agricultural operations are not allowed to spread manure from December 15th to April 1st. This means that you must either have a storage structure that is capable of holding all manure produced on your operation over the period of the ban, which is 107 days, or you must be able to stack all manure produced in a way that will not lead to water quality impacts.

When stacking manure, AAPs require that stacking sites be located more than 100 feet from private wells or property boundaries. In addition, manure cannot be stacked on unimproved sites within 100 feet of surface water, or on land that is subject to annual overflow from adjacent waters. In all these

situations, however, you have the opportunity to demonstrate to the Secretary of Agriculture that no alternative sites exist to enable you to meet these restrictions.

If you do have a storage structure, please make every attempt to empty the structure as soon as possible so you will have sufficient storage to make it through the ban.

If you have any questions about the manure spreading ban, or if you would like assistance in the selection of appropriate manure stacking sites, please call the Agency at (802) 828-3475.

### Requesting a Manure Spreading Ban Exemption

Under Vermont's Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs) regulations, manure spreading ban exemptions are available to farmers that are experiencing an emergency situation and find themselves with

less than sufficient manure storage to make it through the manure spreading ban (107 days). Emergency situations can include, but are not limited to, the structural failure of a manure storage system, equipment failure, etc. Exemptions can also be issued for other specific management needs.

If you find yourself in this situation, please call the Agency of Agriculture at (802) 828-3475 as soon as possible. We will send an Agricultural Resource Specialist or Field Agent out to meet with you and discuss your situation. Information will be collected from you in order to determine how much manure your operation produces on a daily basis, how much, if any, surface runoff (rain fall or snow melt) may be entering your pit, what land base you have available for spreading, and the proximity of water resources to your operation. If the Agency determines

that an emergency situation exists and you have no alternatives for the management of your manure, an exemption will be issued for your operation. The exemption will specify the amount of manure to be spread, the fields suitable for manure application, and the dates during which you will be allowed to spread. Fields will be selected that have the least likelihood of generating

runoff to surface waters.

Exemptions are not intended to allow for continued daily spreading for the duration of the ban, but are designed to allow for the application of the required amount of manure over a period of 3 to 5 days. If you have any questions regarding the manure spreading ban exemption process, please call the Agency at (802) 828-3475.





## CLASSIFIEDS

tiatives/elysian (2/14)

Dairy farm wanted - We are a family with one young child, looking for a dairy farm to rent or lease in Vermont. We are looking for a farm with a house nearby for our family, dairy facilities and enough grazing and hay land for at least 40 cows. We have farming experience and good references. Contact us at benharris40@hotmail.com or 907-317-3916 (2/14)

Farm and home with barn for sale with 30+ acres of the best farm land in the state, on the Conn. River.

Presently used as organic growing site. Near I 91 off exit 5 House has 3 bedroom has been completely renovated; 27 new windows etc. \$499,000 Call owner Christian Blake 802-732-8888 (2/14)

Westminster VT Windham County 1.83 acres of choice land for home or business on paved Dead End Rd near High School on Cemetery Rd, only lot on street, private. \$29,000 will consider lease Call owner Christian Blake 802-732-8888 (2/14)



## Vermont Vegetable and Berry News

*continued from page 10*

in the spring. Managed to get 3 hoop houses recovered, just good luck in terms of the weather. New plastic lets so much more light in! Working on end of year bookkeeping, and making plans for the coming season. Late fall crops all sold out; nice to be done. Overall, a good growing season for us. Grateful for the variety of soil types on the farm, which gives us adaptability to the extremes of our climate.

(Burlington) We like the look and growth of the Salanova lettuces in our high tunnels. Showing good hardiness, nice growth, and several of the incised cultivars also showing good downy mildew and other disease resistance. We also liked it in the field, and are contemplating moving all of our salad mix lettuce toward Salanovas from direct seeding. Storage crops are looking good, though a bit of *Alternaria* rot is showing up in our otherwise lovely potatoes. Wondering if our higher humidity, higher temp suberizing early in the autumn fostered the

organism, since we haven't suberized prior and also not seen the disease. Loving that we now have remote temperature and humidity monitoring installed in our storage rooms; next step will be adding a control function so I can adjust things while I sip coffee at a Montreal cafe.

(Westminster) Winter greens are in full swing! Very pleased with the overwhelming retail and wholesale demand. We have about 5,000 sq. ft. planted, split up into three tunnels. This is our winter experiment. We are trying to gather as much info (while still being productive) as possible. I can see now what great info was shared at last year's winter tunnel meeting. Unfortunately, I did not have enough winter growing knowledge to absorb it all and ask enough questions. We are experimenting with Ag 19, leaving it on or taking it off every morning. We are also trying one house with 28-degree heat and no cover; the most luxurious house and the best so far; dry and growing like gangbusters. Spinach and baby kale growing and selling well, very pleased with our salad mix. We left lettuce out

of that mix completely as it was a weak link. Disappointed in full size head sales, feel like they do not justify their GH space. Also hoping that someone will buy the stupid amount of arugula we planted!

(Monkton) Glad to have garlic and strawberries mulched before the deep cold arrives this week. Hoophouse greens continue stalwartly but we are very glad to have things slowing down a bit. We have time to continue work with the Farm Viability Program (thanks Richard Wiswall and Caitlin Jenness!) and to consider interesting advice on Pollinator Habitat Enhancement from Jane Sorenson's UVM students. Jane (Riverberry Farm) does a great job with those kids. Our farming community includes so many talented and generous people. In spite of many challenges this season, we end the year feeling thankful.

(S. Royalton) Winter markets have been strong so far with high demand for winter greens. Salad greens and bunching mustards still going strong under three layers of row cover in

tunnels and still harvesting cherriette radishes. Some minor slug and cutworm damage on the spinach but with the amazing growth from the fall weather it hasn't been a problem. I'm interested to see how well the spinach keeps producing compared to other years when it wasn't so vigorous.

(Durham CT) The blizzard last February took down five of our six hoop houses. For a few weeks we were able to harvest in small pockets where the houses didn't completely crush our winter greens. This felt like exploring the Titanic at the bottom of the ocean! After that we hired a construction company to demolish and cart away the mangled metal, wood and plastic. Then this past spring we moved into a much-reduced hoophouse area which meant fewer greenhouse tomatoes. We're now growing spinach, claytonia, kale, komasuna, arugula, mache and mustard. Everything is thriving in the two houses we have. Some of our late (mid-Oct) plantings of kale are now coming on. The lower light doesn't mean that things stop growing, they just slow

down. Customers are so glad to see us back in the game; restaurants, farmer's market and CSA. We did pretty well this year, all things considered. In the fall, we decided to put up a lot of low tunnels with kale, carrots, lettuce and mustards. Low tunnels need to be secured very well. We use sandbags on each hoop, and don't make them too long or they become an easy target for big winds. Low tunnels can be very effective and are great for planting late lettuce and carrots, etc. but they aren't conducive to farmers like us of Medicare age; we really miss walking into a hoop house and not having to bend over to do everything. Somewhere along the way our Governor found emergency money for affected farmers and now we are slated to put up two more houses and we are going to have just about as much square footage as used to. Our plans for the new houses may include raspberries, ginger, more greens and peppers, not sure yet. We are grateful for all the support that we've experienced.



## Secretary Ross Visits Ben & Jerry's Headquarters

By Alison Kosakowski,  
VAAFM

**O**n November 21, Secretary Chuck Ross visited Ben & Jerry's corporate headquarters in South Burlington as part of their "Brown Bag Lunch Series."

Ross was accompanied by the Agency's Deputy Secretary for Dairy Policy, Diane Bothfeld, and Alison Kosakowski, Communications Director. While staffers enjoyed pizza and ice cream, the Secretary spoke about key issues facing agriculture in

Vermont, and across the nation. The group engaged the Secretary in a lively discussion, with an emphasis on sustainability, social justice, and environmental responsibility. Ross also highlighted the importance of community-based agriculture and spoke about

his new role as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA).

Afterward, the Secretary met with Ben & Jerry's CEO, Jostein Solheim, Manager of Natural Resources, Andrea Asch, and Director of Social

Mission, Rob Michalak. The group discussed need to increase Ag Literacy among mainstream Americans, and the important role the Vermont brand plays in creating opportunities for farmers in our state.



Founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield greet Secretary Ross (center) before the brown bag lunch.



CEO Jostein Solheim and Secretary Ross pose at Ben & Jerry's Corporate Headquarters

### Trillium Hill Farm *continued from page 6*

while also helping them compare the profitability of different crops, and showing them how to prioritize marketing options. They also received technical assistance in bookkeeping and structuring land agreements. Nicole and Ben have had a very successful growing season and are working hard on realizing the goals laid out in their plan.

The Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program and

the Intervale Center helped both couples—from Trillium Hill and Seedfolks farms—improved their ability to create and use financial records and financial statements, which can be important benchmarks in measuring and planning long-term business success.

"Both sets of farmers now have the tools to monitor their businesses and to grow and adapt as the market changes," said Smith. "Both of these farms used the resources of the Farm Viability Program to learn

and make changes to their farm business for the better."

The Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program (VFFVP) has slots open for farmers to enroll to develop a business plan. To apply, or to read more stories about our work and our other partner organizations, visit our website: [www.vhcb.org/viability](http://www.vhcb.org/viability). VFFVP has three key eligibility requirements for farmers to enter the program: full time Vermont residents, be actively farming, and demonstrate at least \$15,000 gross income in the last year.



Sara and James Donegan of Trillium Hill Farm